

January 5, 2022

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-05

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to notify county child welfare agencies, juvenile probation departments, and other interested parties that certain temporary authorization of higher rates for placements impacted by COVID-19 (previously provided for, and outlined in, [ACL 20-44](#) and [ACL 21-60](#)) are authorized, as specified, through December 31, 2021.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

January 5, 2022

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-05

TO: ALL LICENSED CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES
ALL LICENSED CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROVIDERS
ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS
ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL COUNTY WELFARE FISCAL OFFICERS
ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS
ALL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: **EXTENSION OF RATE FLEXIBILITIES TO SUPPORT THE
EMERGENCY CARE AND PLACEMENT NEEDS OF CHILDREN
AND NONMINOR DEPENDENTS DUE TO COVID-19 IMPACTS**

REFERENCE: [GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY](#),
MARCH 4, 2020; [ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) 20-33](#); [ACL 20-44](#);
[ACL 21-60](#); [EXECUTIVE ORDER \(EO\) N-53-20](#); [EO N-75-20](#); [SB 86](#),
[CHAPTER 15, STATUTES OF 2021](#); WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS
CODE [\(WIC\) SECTIONS 224.1, 309, 361.45, 727.05, 11460\(a\) 11462,](#)
[16519.5](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide county child welfare agencies, juvenile probation departments (collectively known as "county placing agencies"), and other interested parties with guidance regarding extended foster care rate flexibility intended to support the emergency care and placement needs of children and nonminor dependents (NMDs) due to the current COVID-19 emergency.

Certain information disseminated in [ACL 20-44](#) and [ACL 21-60](#) regarding the temporary authorization of higher rates for placements impacted by COVID-19 is effective July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, pursuant to the California Department of Social Services' authority to establish foster care rates set forth in Welfare and Institutions Code [\(WIC\) section 11460\(a\)](#).

The following rates listed in [ACL 21-60](#) and [ACL 21-60E](#) are eligible for the rates extension effective July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021:

- Family-Only Rate for county home placements, including emergency caregivers
- Foster Family Agency (FFA) Static Rate or increased Home-Based Family Care Rate for FFA placements
- Higher negotiated rates up to the Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) Rate for STRTP eligible youth in FFA or county home placements

The intent of these rate extensions is to continue support for the emergency care and placement needs for foster children and NMDs, or another member of the household, having to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19 and, as a result, require increased care and supervision needs. These rates can also be used when a new placement is needed due to sudden displacement brought on by the COVID-19 crisis and the child is at risk of shelter placement. For more information, please refer to [ACL 21-60](#). Please note the payment of the family only rate for emergency caregivers pending resource family approval, along with the ability to pay emergency caregivers beyond 365 days, described in the ACL has ended, and the standard requirements for both the rate and the maximum number of days of payment as described in [WIC section 11461.36](#) are in effect.

If you have any questions regarding the COVID-19 rate extensions should be directed to ratespolicy@dss.ca.gov. Please see [County Fiscal Letter \(CFL\) No. 19/20-89](#) and [CFL No. 20/21-107](#) or contact Fiscal.Systems@dss.ca.gov for additional claiming instructions.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA